

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02400 281044Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 W
-----086170 281058Z /10

O 280951Z APR 78
FM AMEMBSSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7802

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2400

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, MARR, UNSC, SY
SUBJ: USAF AIRLIFT OF SENEGALESE BATTALION TO DAMASCUS

REF: DAMASCUS 2384

1. IN GENERAL I AGREE WITH DATT'S INITIAL REPORT THAT
SENEGALESE UNIFIL AIRLIFT IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY WITH
EXCELLENT COOPERATION FORM SYRIANS. AL-KHOULI WAS JARRED
BY SIZE OF OPERATION AND OUR FUEL REQUIREMENTS BUT HE TOOK
BOTH IN STRIDE. TOUR FOR AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND HIS STAFF
WENT EXTREMELY WELL. WE ANTICIPATE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS
WITH REMAINDER OF AIRLIFT. THERE HAS BEEN ON LOCAL PUBLICITY
THUS FAR NOR ANY MENTION OF AIRLIFT ON RADIOISRAEL THOUGH
RADIO MONTE CARLO HAS CARRIED A REPORT OF USE OF DAMASCUS
AIRPORT FOR UNIFIL TRANSIT OPERATIONS.

2. WE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT WE STILL DO
NOT HAVE FUND CITES FOR PAYMENT OF JET FUEL, LANDING FEES,

VISA COSTS, LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND SOME OTHER
ITEMS. SYRIANS HAVE REQUIRED OTHER NATIONS TO PAY SUCH
COSTS IN CASH BEFORE AIRCRAFT DEPARTS AIRPORT AND ARE GET-
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02400 281044Z

TING GENEROUS IN ALLOWING EMBASSY OFFICERS TO SIGN
CHITS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE JET FUEL AND STANDARD
LANDING FEES. I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GET US THESE
FUND CITES BEFORE CONCLUSION OF OPERATION SUNDAY.

3. ANOTHER CONCERN I HAVE, FOR YOUR EYES ALONE AT THIS
POINT, IS THAT WE ARE PROBABLY SPENDING A GOOD DEAL MORE

THAN WE NEED TO ON THIS OPERATION. THE MASTER SERGEANT
"LOADMASTER" OF THE FIRST C-4 FLIGHT TOLD ME HE COULD
EASILY HAVE CARRIED SIX ADDITIONAL JEEPS. IN ADDITION
THE AIRCRAFT TOOK ON FAR MORE JET FUEL THAN WAS NECESSARY
TO RETURN TO TORREJON WHERE I ASSUME JET FUEL COSTS ARE
A GOOD DEAL LOWER THAN DAMASCUS. SINCE STATE IS PICKING
UP TO TAB, USAF, I ASSUME, IS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED
ABOUT PINCHING PENNIES.

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